

processing device performing] at least one of sanding, planing and grinding by said apparatus.

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Canceled*

⁶ 11. (Amended) The in-situ abrasive surface cleaning process of claim ⁵ 10, wherein said steps of directing, impacting and applying are performed as material is being processed [in the processing device] in said apparatus.

REMARKS

The above amendment with the following remarks is submitted to be fully responsive to the Official Action of March 14, 2000. Reconsideration of this application in light of the amendment and the allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 7-11, and 20-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner pointed out specific deficiencies in each of the claims. In response, the claims 20-22 and 24 have been canceled and 7-11 have been amended to correct each of the deficiencies noted by the Examiner. Therefore, it is respectfully requested this rejection has been overcome.

Claims 6-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Parsons in view of Palmer and Simpson et al. Moreover, claims 6, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kataoka et al. in view of Palmer, Jr.

In response, Applicants' representatives met with the Examiner to discuss the problem solved by the present invention, the deficiencies of the prior art and proposed clarifying amendments to the pending claims. The Examiner's courtesy in granting the interview is appreciated. In response, the Examiner indicated that the proposed amended

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claims define over the prior art of record. Thus, it is believed that newly amended independent claims 6-11 are not rendered obvious by the prior art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 6-24 is in order and respectfully requested. In addition, it is noted that claims 20-22 and 24 have been canceled.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. However, if the Examiner deems that any issue remains after considering this response, he is invited to call the undersigned to expedite the prosecution and work out any such issue by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,



Tim L. Brackett, Jr.
Registration No. 36,092

NIXON PEABODY LLP
8180 Greensboro Drive, Suite 800
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 790-9110
(703) 883-0370 (Fax)

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